

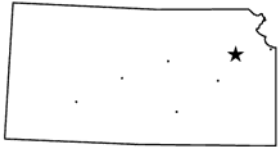


American
Public Health
Association



APHA PHACT Campaign

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION CAMPAIGN



The State of Public Health in Kansas

Years of flat funding and budget cuts to vital public health agencies and programs at both the federal and state levels have taken their toll on Kansas and the nation as a whole, complicating public health efforts. Additional resources are needed to adequately support improving access to care, controlling diseases, eliminating health disparities, and other public health activities. Make public health a priority this year and help us move towards developing a healthy society.

The Facts:

- **Public Health Funding:** The state of Kansas spends only \$16.35 a year on the public health needs of each resident, placing Kansas 39th in the nation. Total public health spending in Kansas, including federal sources such as money from HRSA and CDC, amounts to an average of \$95 per person, which also places Kansas 39th in the nation.
- **Children's Health:** In Kansas, 19.7 percent of all children live in poverty, one of the highest rates in the nation. Children face additional challenges as well, with only 79.2 percent of children ages 19 to 35 months receiving complete immunizations and only 77.9 percent of high school students graduating.
- **Health Disparities:** African Americans living in Kansas experience 70 percent more premature death than whites. In addition, deaths from cancer are 43 percent more common among African Americans than whites.
- **The Road Ahead:** Kansas has made recent improvements in many public health areas, including a decrease in infant mortality. However, the state still faces many public health challenges, such as inadequate access to primary care physicians with only 101.6 per 100,000 people.

Sources: United Health Foundation's State Snapshots; Trust for America's Health, *The State of Your Health Report*, 2008 Edition

In response to an informal electronic survey sent out to our membership and 53 state affiliates:

A Public Health Worker from the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas told us, *"Losing the federal funding will result in the loss of staff and ultimately the loss of certification of poison control center. In addition, staffing may decrease to less than fulltime coverage."* In response to a follow-up question about the effect of funding cuts on the community, she responded, *"Decrease in staffing and certification will be inevitable, which may result in less availability to the public. Loss of certification will decrease our ability to work with other agencies as we may be viewed as less credible."*

Another Public Health Worker described, *"As a result of budget cuts, we were forced to cut our outreach activities that were aimed at wellness, obesity, and diabetes education. We expect to see patients going to the ER for care and long term complications."*

Founded in 1872, APHA is the oldest, largest and most diverse organization of public health professionals in the world. The association aims to protect all Americans and their communities from preventable, serious health threats and strives to assure community-based health promotion and disease prevention activities and preventive health services are universally accessible in the United States. www.apha.org.